



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Michael Russell
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Carl Moore
Frank Bacio

Absent

James Cragin

Others Present

B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office
Lee Millen, Commission Services
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

This item was deferred to a future Commission agenda.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported on the following:

- Ethel, Sybil Brand's former housekeeper, has relocated and is doing well;

- The September 28th issue of the Daily Breeze reported on the public outcry resulting from the recent escape of four patients from a lockdown treatment center for severely emotionally disturbed teenagers in the City of Torrance (copy on file);
- The September 29th issue of the Daily Breeze reported on two recent auto accidents (copy on file):
 1. A 2-year-old Rancho Palos Verdes girl was killed when her father, an LAPD officer, inadvertently backed over her in their driveway.
 2. A young mother was killed when her own minivan pinned her against an apartment building after she failed to put the vehicle in park before exiting.
- The September 30th issue of the Press Telegram reported on the following:
 1. Proposed legislation passed by the state Legislature and forwarded to Governor Schwarzenegger, which would place strict new limits on the ability of police to question youths at school without the knowledge of their parents.
 2. The recent increases in hospitalized patients as numerous bacteria continue to defy antibiotics.

Chair Montano requested staff to order new name plates containing the County seal for the Commissioners and staff.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the Commission's Charitable Fund balance is \$745.40.

STAFF REPORT

B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office, advised that as of October 1st staff a reorganization of staff took effect; Sherry Scates will remain as the Commission's staff and will be assisted by Twila Kerr, and this team will report to Lee Millen, Senior Staff. A discussion regarding the Commission's current vacancies followed.

Sherry Scates, Staff, reported the following:

- No update from County Counsel has been received regarding the Commission's use of cameras during inspection tours;
- Sheriff Baca's office has not as yet advised regarding the return of Sybil Brand's badge;

- Sgt. Soffell has not as yet advised regarding police reports for group homes;
- A copy of the DCFS group homes list was mailed to Lt. Arthur-Parra, per her request.

CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Chair Montano reported the following:

- Various Program Audit Reports were received from the Auditor-Controller's office, which she would review and make available for Commissioner's review.
- The Commission received an invitation to the County Commission on Human Relations' 60th Anniversary Celebration. Following discussion, the Commission agreed to sponsor Commissioner Moore's attendance at this event.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION GOALS

Following discussion, Commissioners agreed that Commissioner Hammagren's list of recommended Commission goals is an excellent beginning and agreed to study the matter further. The goal of filling the Commission's current vacancies was added to the list.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

CNR/Masada/Prospect House – 22 #1

Chair Montano visited this facility but no one was at home and no inspection was conducted.

Touch of Life Foundation II – 107 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on October 1st and gave a rating of **needs improvement**. Areas of concern: the showers need cleaning; the washbowl was leaking; and the Dodge van needed tires. ***A six-month follow-up visit is planned.***

Liddell's Group Home- 63 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on October 1st and gave a rating of **needs improvement**. Areas of concern: the freezer needs defrosting; the kitchen exhaust vent and the oven need cleaning; kitchen sink is leaking; smoke detector in bedroom #3 needs batteries; the screen on back door needs re-screening; first aid kits needed for home and vehicle; and debris in garage and backyard should be removed

due to possible fire hazard. Also, a 16 year-old resident's illiteracy is a great concern.

H & V Group Home – 51 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on October 4th and gave a rating of **needs improvement**. Areas of concern: no emergency phone numbers posted and no emergency plan in place; no first aid kits in home or vehicle; and there are no suicide kits. Commissioners recommended that this facility be inspected every six months. ***A six-month follow-up visit is planned.***

United Care, Inc. III – 109 #2

Commissioner Moore and Bacio visited this facility on September 30th; no one was at home and no inspection was conducted.

Glass/St. Andrews House – 48 #1

Commissioners Moore and Bacio visited this facility on September 30th; no one was at home and no inspection was conducted.

Greene Home for Boys – 51 #1

Commissioner Moore visited this facility on October 5th and gave a rating of **needs improvement**. Areas of concern: compact freezer needs defrosting and possible replacement; combination freezer/refrigerator needs cleaning; underside of kitchen sink needs repair; kitchen cabinets need replacing; no smoke detector in bedroom #3; storage areas need to be organized; and bathroom shower needs repair. Facility management advised that a major refurbishment is scheduled and Commissioners asked that they be notified when repairs are finished. ***A three-month follow-up visit is planned.***

Olive Crest Treatment Center – 79 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on September 30th and noted that overall the facility was much improved since previous inspections, but further **improvement needed**. Areas of concern: several beds were short-sheeted; study room is much too overcrowded with desks and computers; and residents are no longer schooled on site and are bused to Orange County. ***A four-month follow-up visit is planned.***

Arrowhead Emancipation Home – 3 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on October 4th and found that this facility had been closed.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Cannella shared a copy of legislation, AB 384 (Assemblyman Tim Leslie), which Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law on October 4th banning the use of tobacco by inmates and staff at all adult and youth correctional facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (To Be Presented and Placed On a Future Meeting Agenda)

- Further Discussion of Commission Goals

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates
Staff, Commission Services